


THE ACTIVIST MUSEUM AWARD 2019


CALL FOR
APPLICATIONS



“Only a decade ago, the notion that museums, galleries and cultural organisations might engage in activist practice – marshalling and directing their unique resources with explicit intent to act upon inequalities, injustices and environmental crises – was met with scepticism and often derision.

Seeking to purposefully bring about social change was viewed by many within and beyond the museum community as inappropriately political and biased. Such work was thought to be antithetical to fundamental professional values.

Today, although the idea remains controversial, the way we think about the roles and responsibilities of museums as knowledge-based, social institutions is changing.”



Janes, R. R. and Sandell, R. (2019), *Museum Activism: Abingdon and New York*, Routledge: xxvii.

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

As part of the 20th anniversary celebrations of the Research Centre for Museums and Galleries (RCMG), the School of Museum Studies at the University of Leicester is delighted to announce the launch of the Activist Museum Award.

This award is for an individual or group working in/with museums to support the research and development of an activist project that reflects the ideas presented by Robert Janes and Richard Sandell in their recent book, *Museum Activism* (2019). Museum activism refers to, 'museum practice, shaped out of ethically-informed values, that is intended to bring about political, social and environmental change.'

The Activist Museum Award is the vision of Robert R. Janes in recognition of the pioneering work of Richard Sandell in the field of museums and social justice. It is intended to encourage, inspire and support similarly activist museum work throughout the UK museum community.

This award was made possible by a gift from Robert R. Janes.

AWARD

The successful applicant will be awarded **£1000** to support the development of their ideas.

The deadline for applications is **31st October 2019**.

Successful applicants will be notified by the end of November 2019. The project must be completed within one year.

Successful applicants will share their process and outcomes at an event for practitioners and researchers hosted by RCMG at the University of Leicester by the end November 2020. This award is available to any UK-based practitioners and researchers (Staff in the University of Leicester are not eligible to apply).

Awards will be made annually for at least three years.

HOW TO APPLY

Apply by sending a curriculum vitae (2 pages maximum) and a proposal for your project (2 pages maximum) to **Jocelyn Dodd** (jad25@le.ac.uk) which outlines:

- A brief description of your project
- Project aims
- Rationale/context
- What you will do/how you will do it
- What partnerships (if any) do you envisage being part of this project?
- Anticipated impact of the project

SELECTION

All applications will be assessed by the selection panel:

- Sara Wajid, Museum of London
- Ross Parry, School of Museum Studies
- Jocelyn Dodd, Research Centre for Museums and Galleries

The selection panel are looking for proposals that will help advance our understanding of how museums can address climate/environmental crises or foster progressive social or political change.

Applicants will be judged on their:

- Fit to this call
- Quality of concept
- Feasibility
- Potential to have impact

ENQUIRIES

Please email RCMG@le.ac.uk if you have any enquiries about the Activist Museum Award.